ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

OF THE

SIXTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

SIPSEY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH

Mount Hebron Church,

October 2nd and 3rd, 1895.

[illegible] McTr. J. F. Allgeart, Clerk.
[illegible], Corresponding Secretary.

[illegible] Ridge Church by
[illegible] Friday before 1st Sunday in Oct., 1895.

[illegible] ALA.:
[illegible] POST OFFICE.
1895.

MINUTES.

The Sipsey Baptist Association met in her sixth annual session with Mt. Hebron Church, Wednesday and Thursday, October 2nd and 3rd, 1895, Tuscaloosa county, Ala., at 11 o'clock a. m. The introductory sermon was delivered by Rev. J. A. Andrews, from 3rd chap 1st Cor., 22 v.: "Whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life or death, or things present or to come all are yours."—to a large and attentive audience. At the close of the discourse recess of one and a half hours was given for refreshments, which was on the ground in abundance, for both man and beast.

Afternoon Session.—The delegates reassembled in the house, and were called to order by Rev. J. B. Ferguson, former Moderator. After devotional exercises by the Moderator, letters from the various churches were presented, and brethren A. E. Patterson and D. E Windham were appointed reading clerks. Letters were read and names enrolled as follows:

Bethabara—L. Brown, T. A. Wheat, W. H. Loftis.

Corinth—A. M. Mills, W. G. Cranford,* E. Mayfield.

Dunn's Creek—J. S. Sullivant, A. J. Brown, G. D. Mayfield.*

Friendship—Rev. J. B. Ferguson, Rev. I. L. Collins, N. B. Ramsey.

Macedonia—T. L. Hudson, B. F. Patterson,* A. E. Patterson.

Moore's Bridge—D. M. Montgomery, D. E. Windham, W. Strickland.*

Mt. Hebron—C. Winter, H. T. Reese, B. M. Freeman

New Hope—R L South, N H Taylor,* J C Williamsonn.

Sardis—Rev. J. S. White, J. B. Watkins, J. H. Smith.

Chapel Hill—J. W. Sanders, C H Hughes, V. Blakney.

Pleasant Grove—Rev. J. A. Andrews, S. B. Mullinax, J. D. Brown.

Flat Woods—Jas. Yerby, J. B. Moss,* W. H. K Berks.

Double Branch—H. A Skelton.* J. E. Reeves, J. A. Awtry.*

Mt Tabor—Rev. J. M. Chism, R. W. Daffron,* J. H. Carpenter.*

Oak Ridge—A. L. Walker, C. R. Davis, J. M. Lindsey.*

Pleasant Ridge—J. F. Ashcraft, J. M. Ashcraft, G. W. Ashcraft.*

Spring Hill—J. T. Carter, A. Guin, E. Guin.*

Arbor Springs—Rev. J. R. Barnett, W. D. Whatley, W. H. Ferguson.

The body then proceeded to elect officers, which resulted in the election of Rev. J. B. Ferguson, Moderator, and J. F. Ashcraft, Clerk. The body then proceeded to business as follows:

An opportunity for new or other Churches to join our Association was given, when Arbor Springs came forward with letter and delegates, and was duly received and attached to First District. The Moderater extended the hand of welcome to the delegates, whose names were enrolled in the proper place, and they were seated.

Received Correspondents Rev. G. W. Gravlee, Rev. G. H. White, New River Association; William Mitchell, Tuscaloosa.

Returned Correspondents: To New River, Rev. J. R. Barnett, Rev. J. M. Chism; J. T. Cooper, R. L. South, J. C. Williamson, Rev. J. B. Ferguson, and J. F. Ashcraft.

To Tuscaloosa: W. D. Whatley, J. W. Falls, Rev. R. J. Mayfield, E. Mayfield.

To Union Association: A. M. Mills, J. A. Mitchell, J. W. Brown, Rev. J. A. Andrews, James Mills, jr., S. B. Mullinax.

Appointed committees as follows:

Devotion: L. Brown, A. J. Brown and the Deacon of Mt. Hebron Church.

Finance: A. Guin, W. H. Ferguson, J. W. Sanders.

Documents: J. M. Chism, J. R. Barnett, J. T. Carter, D. M. Montgomery, J. B. Ferguson added.

Nomination: E. Mayfield, R. L. South, W. D. Whatley, D. E. Windham.

Religious Literature: A. E. Patterson, Rev. I. L Collins, L. Brown, A. M. Mills.

Education: J. E. Reeves, C. R. Davis, J. M. Ashcraft, A. L. Walker.

On Program; Rev. J. S. White, Rev. J. M. Chism, J. F. Ashcraft.

STANDING COMMITTEES.

Sabbath School: D. E. Windham, T. L. Hudson, A. Guin, R. L. South, P. D. Sudduth.

Temperaace: Rev. J. M. Chism, L. Brown, Rev. J. R. Barnett, J. Champrion, A. E. Patterson.

Executive: Z. A. M. Mills, A L Walker, J M Ashcraft, J. T. Carter.

Called for the report of District Meetings. Next district meeting of the First District will be held with Dunn's Creek church, Friday before the 2nd Sunday in September, 1896; Introductory Sermon to be delivered by Elder J. B. Ferguson; I. B. Davis, alternate. 1st Query: What was the object designed to be tanght by Christ washing the Apostles feet. Opened by James Mills, jr., and L Brown. 2nd Query: How may all of God's children assist in advancing his cause on earth? Opened by A. E. Patterson and W. F. Taylor. 3rd Query: Is it the duty of each individual, who is a member of the Church, to contribute of their substance for Missionary purposes? Opened by Rev. I. L. Collins and A. M. Mills. 4th Query: What are we to learn from the words of Jesus when he said, "Suffer little children to come unto me and forbid them not"? Opened by Rev. R. J. Mayfield and J. S. White.

REV. I. L. COLLINS; Mod'r.

A. E. PATTERSON, Clerk.

Second District will convene with Oak Ridge Church on Friday before the 4th Sunday in August, 1896; Rev. J. M. Chism to preach the introductory sermon, Rev. J. A. Andrews, alternate. 1st Query: Does a church have a right to receive an acknowledgement from a member for a public offence, before he is excluded from the church? To be opened by J. F. Ashcraft, H. A. Skelton. 2nd Query; Was the supper that was eaten when Jesus washed his disciples' feet and the one where he gave the bread and wine and blessed it, one and the same supper? Opened by J. A. Andrews and G. W. Ashcraft. 3rd Query: Has the Church a Scriptural right to prefer charges against a Deacon for failing to participate in the Communion? To be opened by J. M. Chism and J. W. Brown.

Called for report of Committee on Sunday Schools:

We, your Committee on Sunday Schools, would report that the First District met with New Hope Church on Friday and Saturday, July 27th and 28th, 1895, and located the next session with Moore's Bridge Church, Friday before the 1st Sunday in August, 1896: Rev. I. L. Collins to preach the introductory; Rev. J. S. White, alternate. Essays by Misses M. J. Gilliland and Addie Williamson, or any other lady who may so desire. 1st Query: Should the Church control the Sabbath School, or should it be an independent organization? Opened by M. C. Crossland and W. F. Taylor. 2nd Query: What is, and what should be the object of the Convention? Opened by I. B. Davis and I. L. Hudson. 3rd Query: Are we, as parents, not responsible for the Bible training of our children; if so, how can we most successfully meet the responsibility? Opened by D. E. Windham and James Mills, Jr.

I. L. Collins, Moderator.

R. L. South, Clerk.

Committee on Devotion reported as follows:

We would report that there will not be any preaching to-night L. Brown, Chm'n.

On motion adjourned to meet to-morrow morning at 8 o'clock.

SECOND DAY.

The house was called to order by the Moderator at 8 a. m. Read the 26th Psalm, prayer by Rev. I. L. Collins.

Committee on Sabbath Schools reported as follows:

We would report that, from reading of the letters, we find ten Sunday Schools reported; and that a S S., Convention has been held in the 1st District; and we think that the Sunday School is growing in our Association. We would recommend that each Church report her letter to the Association if she has a Sunday School or not; and we recommend that each Church organize a Sunday School at once, and that we all study the Word of God and teach it to our children. We still urge upon the 2nd District the importance of organizing a Sabbath School Convention, which has proved a very great blessing. We recommend that the Sabbath School Committee call a Sabbath School Convention to meet in each District, each year, at such time and place as in their judgment may seem best, and that it be open to either District.

T. L. Hudson, Chm'n.

On motion adjourned to hear the Missionary Sermon by Rev. J. B. Ferguson. who preached to a large and attentive audience, from 116th Psalm, 12th verse: "What shall I render unto the Lord for all His benefits toward me." A collection was taken up for Missions, amounting to $13.45 cash and $15.00 by subscription.

Adjourned one hour for dinner.

Afternoom Session.—Called to order by the Moderator. Prayer by Rev. G. W. White.

Called for report of Committee on Temperance, which report is as follows:

We, your Committee on Temperance, report that Temperance, the moderate, healthful use of lawful enjoyments, it may be considered a kind of universal restraint of self-command in all things; though we will discuss intoxicating drinks, which have a source of so large a part of the evils which affect mankind. No question has more fully agitated the minds of the people of this nation, and when we think of the evils that strong drink has done to individuals and society, it is enough to make our hearts bleed; when the statistics stare us in the face and say that strong drink costs $1,000,000,000 a year in money. See the great wealth in the hands of one class, having common interests and common purposes, is a mighty power. This class does not lack for oranigzation. During five years preceeding 1884, while the people increased about 15 per cent. the consumption of distilled spirits increased 44 per cent. It should be remembered that at beginning of this century whisky was on every side-board; we all can see the result of that practice—there was not a word against its moderate use. Statistics show that its use has created 50 per cent. of our insane, 60 per cent. of all paupers, and caused 70 per cent. ef the murders, and directly makes 90 per cent. of all other criminals. It is estimated that the United States pays $900,000,000 annually for intoxicating liquors. Just think how much money is spent for whisky, and a great deal of it spent by church members. Will we not stop and think before it is too late; let our walk correspond with our professions, and let us get out of the way of sinners.

Respectfully submitted;

J. A. Andrews, Chm'n.

Committee on Missions reported as follows:

Your committee beg leave to recommend that this Asso-

ciation inaugurate some plan by which we may raise funds to employ an Evangelist for at least a part of the next Associational year. Brethren, on account of there being an insufficiency of means there hasn't been anything done in the way of missionary work. Brethren let us be Missionaries in truth; let us prove our faith by our work. We have on hand $4.60 We here appeal to the Deacon of each church to get up some systematic plan by which every member will help to contribute for the spread of the Gospel; that they may feel that they have an interest in this great work. No Christian can doubt the imperative obligation of the command, "Go ye into all the world and preach my gospel to every creature." To comply with this great command of our Savior the means must be provided. We have the ability and the opportunity and should do something to aid this great work. Your committee recommend that this subject be held before our people by the Pastors of each Church, and the duty of increasing contributions by each individual. Respetfully submiited,

A. M. Mills, Chm'n.

Committe on Documents made the following report:

Your Committee on Documents report that, by examining the Documents placed in our hands, we find there have been 82 baptized, 49 received by letters, 18 restored; total gain, 149. Dismissed, 51; excluded, 7; died, 15; total loss, 73; net gain, 66. We also find a request form Flat Woods Church for a letter of dismission, which we recommend be granted; and a request by Dunn's Creek that the report of their deaths be spread upon the minutes, which we recommend. Also, a query from New Hope asking the standing of a member who has received a letter of dismission, which was limited to a certain time and which was held beyond the specified time. Ans.—The letter is void

and he is a member as though the letter had not been granted. Respectfully submitted,

J. M. CHISM, Chm'n.

Report on Religious Literature :

Committee on Religious Literature take pleasure in recommending "The Alabama Baptist," the State organ of our denomination, to every Baptist family of the Sipsey Association; and "Kind Words" to all of Sunday School teachers and pupils. Respectfully submitted,

A. E. PATTERSON, Chm'n

Committee on Education beg leave to submit the following report: That we believe that the Missionary Baptists, as a denomination, are not as much interested in educational work as its importance demands, and that our educational interests are retrograding rather than builing up. We are informed that there is an effort in Union Association to establish a High School at Kennedy, Ala., for the interest of the Baptist denomination, and that it is the intention of the Union Association to ask help from other Associations.

Respectfully submitted. J. E. REEVES, Chm'n.

On motion, the Moderator appointed a committee of five to confer with the Union, or New River Association in reference to establishing a High School at Kennedy or Fayette, viz: Rev. J. M. Chism, A. L. Walker, G. W. Ashcraft, L. Brown, A. M. Mills.

Committee on Superanuated Ministers beg leave to report, that Bros. I. L. Collins and R. J. Mayfield need the assistance of the Association.

Respectfully submitted, A. E. PATTERSON, Chm'n.

Treasurer reported as follows: Paid for Minutes, $12.00; Clerk's fee, $9.00; paid R. J. Mayfield, $1.40; mailing Minutes, $1.00; balance on hand, $2.05.

Brethren, since our last Association God, in His wisdom, has called from the walks of men four members,

viz: Bros. James White and William Sullivant, and Sister Nancy White and Sister Bailey; all of whom were worthy members with us. We miss their presence and mourn their loss, but while it is our loss it is their eternal gain.

On motion, granted Flat Woods a letter of dismission.

Appointed J. F. Ashcraft, Treasurer.

Committee on Nominations reported Rev. J. R. Barnett to preach the Introductory Sermon at the next Association, Rev. J. M. Chism, alternate. Missionary Sermon to be preached by Rev. R. J. Mayfield; J. B. Ferguson, alternate.

E. Mayfield, Ch'n.

Finance Committee reported:

Your Finance Committee beg leave to report that we have received for minutes, $11.70; Associational purposes, $8.90; State Missions, $4.00; Foreign Missions, 50c.

Respectfully submitted, A. Guin, Chm'n.

Resolved, That we change the time of our annual meeting from the present time, to convene on Saturday before the first Sabbath in October of each year. Adopted.

Resolved, That the Clerk receive $8.90 for his services, and that he have as many Minutes printed as the funds will pay for.

Resolved, That we tender our thanks to Mt. Hebron Church and community for their unbounded hospitality to us during our stay with them.

Resolved, That we now adjourn to meet with Pleasant Ridge Church, on Saturday before the first Sunday in October, 1896, at 11 o.clock a m.

Prayer by Rev. I. L. Collins. The delegates and congregation then joined in singing a hymn and took the parting hand. Thus closed the sixth annual session of Sipsey Baptist Association.

Rev. J. B. Ferguson, Moderator.

J. F. Ashcraft, Clerk.

CONSTITUTION.

1. This Association shall be composed of members chosen by the different Churches in our union, who, on presenting their letters, shall be entitled to seats.

2. The Association thus formed, a majority of the members present shall choose by ballot, a Moderator and Clerk, who shall serve one year.

3. This Association shall be known as the Sipsey Baptist Association, which shall have the privilege to engage in missionary work in all its bearings, yet so that churches and individual members are left free, and that giving or withholding shall not be a bar to membership.

4. To give churches the best advice she can in all matters of difficulties, and if the union be broken between two or more churches to enquire into the cause of the breach, and use her best endeavors to remove the difficulty; provided the aggrieved has followed the instructions laid down in the 18th chapter of Mathew, but if the breach cannot be repaired, to withdraw from any church or churches which she may consider unsound in doctrine or immoral in practice, until the same can be reconciled.

5. The churches in our union shall transmit to every annual session of the Association a written communication, giving the name of the delegates, their number in fellowship, baptized, received by letter, restored, dismissed, excluded, and deceased, since the last session.

6. Each church shall be entitled to three delegates and no more Any church failing to represent at any annual session, shall be required to give a reason for her failure, at the next session.

7. Churches may be admitted into this Association who petition by letter and delegates, and upon examination, if found orderly and orthodox, may be received, at the discretion of the Asssociation when the Moderator shall give the right hand of fellowship to said delegates.

8. Any church in our union may send queries to the Association, asking advice, when it shall be the duty of the Association to answer the same as she may think best.

9. Voting may be confined exclusively to the body in all acts respecting their internal concerns.

10. The Association shall not adjourn any session until

she shall have finished all business on hand, except in extraordinary cases

11. The minutes of the Association shall be read, and corrected if necessary, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk, before the session rises.

12. The Association shall in all cases be governed by a majority of the members present, except to change or amend the Constitution.

13. Amendments to the Constitution may be made at any session, when two-thirds of the members present are in favor of amendment.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

ARTICLE 1. We believe in only one true and living God, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost.

2 We believe that the Scriptures comprising the Old and New Testament, are the Word of God, the only rule of faith and practice.

3. We believe in the doctrine of Election through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth.

4. We believe in the doctrine of original sin.

5. We believe in man's incapacity, by his own free will and ability, to recover himself from the fallen state in which he is by nature.

6. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God by the imputed righteousness of Christ only.

7. We believe that God's elect shall be called, regenerated, and sactified by the Holy Ghost.

8. We believe that the Saints shall be preserved in Grace, and never fall finally away.

9. We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper are Ordinances of Jesus Christ, and the true believers are the only subjects of Baptism, and that by Immersion is the only Apostolic mode.

10. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, and in the General Judgement, and that the felicity of the righteous and punishment of the wicked will be eternal.

11. We believe that no minister has any right to administer the ordinances of the Church but one who is regularly baptized, called of God, and comes under the imposition of the hands of Presbytery.

12. We believe that none but legally baptized members have a right to commune at the Lord's Table.

RULES OF DECORUM.

Article 1. The Association shall be opened and closed with prayer.

2. The Moderator shall be considered a judge of order, and shall have discretionary right to call a member to order at any time.

3. A member not satisfied with his decision, may appeal to the Association on the same day, but at no other time.

4. But one member shall speak at a time, who shall rise to his feet and address the Moderator, and, on obtaining permission, proceed.

5. The Moderator, when addressed by a member for permission to speak, shall signify the same in naming the person, or otherwise.

5. No member shall be interrupted while speaking, unless he depart from the subject, or use words of personal reflection. Every motion made and seconded, shall come under the consideration of the Association, unless withdrawn by him who made it.

7. Every case taken up by the Association shall be decided on or withdrawn before another shall be offered.

8. When a motion is taken up, after allowing time for debates, the Moderator shall take the voice of the Association in such mode as he may determine.

9. The Moderator shall announce the decision of the Body.

10. Any member wishing to retire shall obtain permission of the Moderator.

11. No member shall speak more than twice on the same proposition, without leave of the Association.

12. The appellation of "Brother" shall be used in the Association by members in their address to one another.

13. The names of members shall be called as often as the Association may direct.

14. No member shall be tolerated in any practice which tends to interrupt public speaking.

15. The Moderator shall be entitled to the same privilege of speaking as any other member, provided he appoint another to his seat during the time, but he shall not vote on any question unless the Association be equally divided.

16. Any member violating these rules, shall be reproved by the Moderator, but only on the day the breach shall have been made.

PROGRAM.

1. Introductory Sermon.
2. Read letters and enroll names of delegates.
3. Elect officers.
4. Receive Churches desiring to join this Association.
5. Read Constitution, Articles of Faith and Rules of Decorum.
6. Receive, and return correspondents.
7. Appoint special standing committees.
8. Receive reports of District Meetings.
9. Receive report of Sabbath School committee, and Convention.
10. Receive report on Temperance.
11. Receive report on Missions.
12. Receive report on Superanuated Ministers.
13. Receive reports on documents, education, religious literature, nominations.

Churches.	County.	Pastor.	Clerk.	Clerk's P. O.	Baptism,	Letter,	Voucher,	Restoration,	Decrease by L.,	Exclusion.	Deaths,	Present Mem'p	Minute Fund,	Associa'l Fund
Arbor Springs,	Tuscaloosa,	J B Ferguson,	T M Whatley	Samantha,	15	6	2	1				59	1 00	50
Bethabara,	Tuscaloosa,	J H M Andrews	J J Wheat	McConnells,	0	3	0					63	75	50
Corrinth,	Pickens,	S E Hodge,	J A Mitchell,	Sipsey Turnpike,	0				5	1	2	79	1 00	1 00
Dunn's Creek,	Tuscaloosa,	J M Chism,	A J Lewis,	Fox,	7				7	1	4	125	1 00	50
Friendship,	Tuscaloosa,	J S White.	N B Ramsey,	McConnells,	6	6	0		7		0	61	75	75
Moore's Bridge	Tuscaloosa,	R J Mayfield,	D E Windham	Moore's Bridge.	2	2	0				2	42	50	50
Macedonia,	Tuscaloosa,	J J Patterson,	A E Patterson,	Reuben,	1	4			5			26	50	75
Mt. Hebron,	Tuscaloosa,	J A Andrews,	J E Watson,	McConnells,	1	1			1			30	75	75
New Hope,	Fayette,	J J Patterson,	R L South,	Reuben,	1	6			17	1	1	60	80	40
Sardis,	Fayette,	M W Olive,	J H Smith,	Ridge,		6			3	1	1	23	50	25
2nd District.														
Chapel Hill,	Fayette,	J J Patterson,	W H Brown,	Pilgrim,	22	4		4				94	65	50
Double Branch	Pickens,	J A Andrews,	J E Reeves,	Lubbub,		9						41	50	25
Oak Ridge,	Fayette,	J M Chism,	A L Walker,	Pilgrim,								17	25	75
Mt. Tabor,	Pickens,	J M Chism	J W Dollar,	Palmetto,	0	0			9	2		44	50	
Pleasn't Ridge	Fayette,	F Wilson,	T F Ashcraft,	Durrow,	16	5					1	61	1 00	50
Pleasn't Grove	Pickens,	J A Andrews,	J W Brown,	Gordo,	4	2			2		1	42	75	50
Spring Hill,	Tuscaloosa,	J M Chism,	A Guin,	Moore's Bridge,	12			1	2			77	1 00	50
					81	48	2	6	58	6	12	944	1220	8 90

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